

REMARKS

Sir:

Claims 1-10 and 12-60 were pending in the above-identified application; of these, claims 26 and 32-34 are allowed, claims 1-10, 12-21, 23-25, 27-30, 35-38, 41-44, and 47-60 are rejected, and claims 22, 31, 39, 40, 45, and 46 are objected to. Applicants, having cancelled some claims and amended others, respectfully respect reconsideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

The examiner asserts that an IDS filed April 15, 2003, failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), and so did not consider the cited references. Arthur Behiel, applicant's attorney, called the examiner on July 25, 2003, to determine the reason for non-compliance, and was told that the examiner did not receive copies of the cited references.

Later, during a July 28, 2003, teleconference, Mr. Behiel explained that he believed the references were submitted and received a return-receipt postcard verifying that submission. The examiner kindly offered to consider the references if the IDS and references were resubmitted with this response. (Though the examiner was good enough not to require a copy of the return-receipt postcard, applicant submits a copy of the postcard herewith.)

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 25, 27, 28, 35, 36, 42, 47-49, 54-58, and 60 stand rejected under section 102 as anticipated. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 25, 28, 35, 36, 42, 54-58, and 60 are cancelled, rendering moot the rejections

of those claims. Claims 27 and 47-49 are amended to depend from allowed claims, so claims 27 and 47-49 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 12-15, 16-18, 19-21, 23, 24, 29, 30, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 50-53, and 59 stand rejected under section 103. Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 12-15, 16-18, 19-21, 29, 30, 37, 38, 43, 44, 50-53, and 59 are cancelled, rendering moot the rejections of those claims. Claims 23, 24, and 41 are amended to depend from allowed base claims, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons the base claims are allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 22, 31, 39, 40, 45, and 46 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims. Each of the listed claims is amended to depend from an allowed base claim, and is therefore believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims

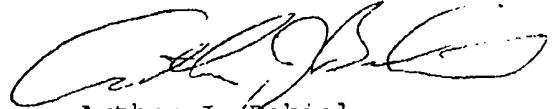
Claims 26 and 32-34 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, the pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance; accordingly, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If

the examiner's next action is other than allowance of the pending claims, the examiner is requested to call applicants' representative at (925) 461-2616.

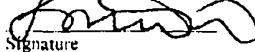
Respectfully submitted,



Arthur J. Behiel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,603

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on August 22, 2003

Laurie Morend
Name


Signature